**Kandy Powers’ PLC Reflections**:Words Into Expressions & Equations

*Mrs. Powers, Mrs. Rischer, Ms. Mencer, Mrs. Henderson*

1. **What was your favorite part of the lesson and why?**

\*Use of technology increased student attention.

\*Excellent writing practice, using complete sentences and correct punctuation when writing word problems.

\*Writing [their] own word problems. Even though it was difficult at first for students and I had to help four out of five groups, they began grasping the concept towards the end.

\*Teachers agreed it was a great assessment tool for general understanding of clue words.

\*True/False cards…students were attentive.

1. **How effective was the lesson in meeting the objective? What was most effective?**

\*True/False Game…very effective in introducing variables.

\*Very effective, all agreed.

\*Most effective was writing own problems. They really had to understand what they were doing! Easy to see who could not and needed help.

1. **What parts of the lesson would you change? Why?**

\*Suggestion one: All agreed, needs more examples of word problems before group work, because I found myself having to give every group an example anyhow, as I walked around.

\*Suggestion two: Each group presented their best word problems to the class using the projector and Elmo. Very effective in making them orally explain reasoning in their own words.

\*Suggestion three: Spread lesson over two days…give them homework the first night to write a word problem about family members (Something that could be easily acted out. Give students an example using teacher’s own family.) The next day, they could share their problems with their group and choose the best one to demonstrate to the class, as a skit.

1. **Were there any parts that needed more explanation or time? How did you handle these situations?**   
   \*One teacher stated that picking out key words and clue words need to be reviewed before teaching this lesson.

\*Give students a list of clue words for four operations to keep in Math Journal or have them write their own list.

1. **Did your students find the lesson meaningful and worth completing?**  
   \*Yes, they could see for themselves what level of understanding they began with and the growth they made from this lesson.

**\***Students enjoyed this lesson and were engaged.